Election Expenses

3611. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the details of expenditure incurred on the Parliamentary Elections held in 1996 by the Central/State Governments on publication of voters lists, ballot boxes and Election Commission's Observers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : The information is being collected from the States/Union Territories (with Legislature) and Union Territories (without Legislature) and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shares Floated by Tea Gardens

3612. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of tea gardens of districts Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar of West Bengal have been allowed to float shares in the market by SEBI;

(b) whether some of the Tea Gardens had already been treated as illegal and unauthorised by Government of West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the circumstances under which the SEBI have allowed these illegal and unauthorised Tea Gardens to float shares in the market?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Details of Tea gardens in the Districts of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar that came up with public issues during the year 1995 are given below.

	Name	Issue Size	(Rs. crores)
1.	T& I Global	Rs.4.45 crores	January, 1995
2.	Diana Tea	Rs. 8.94 crores	May, 1995
3.	Hanuman Tea	Rs.8.50 crores	January, 1995

(b) and (c) SEBI has stated that it is not aware of these gardens being treated as illegal and unauthorised by the Government of West Bengal. However, SEBI makes sure that all negative factors about an issue are mentioned as risk factors in the prospectus. In project related public issues SEBI asks the issuer to mention the fact of non-receipt of approvals/pending approvals/no-objection certificates as risk factor on the front cover of the prospectus so that investors can take informed decisions.

Tax Holiday to Taluk

3613. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DALIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal received from the Government of Gujarat for reconsidering the backwardness of Taluka instead of District as a whole, as a parameter for sanctioning Tax Holiday under section 80 IA of Income Tax Act, 1961 is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the stage at which this proposal is pending; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter regarding considering the backwardness of Taluka instead of District as a whole, as a parameter for sanctioning tax holiday under Section 80 IA was referred to a Study Group constituted in the Ministry of Finance. The report submitted by the Study Group constituted in this regard was reviewed by another group. The review group has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government.

Delay in Logging DEEC Books at Customs

3614. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether exporters have expressed their concern over delay in logging of their DEEC books;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of these books, exporters remain handicapped in redemption of legal undertaking and also in disposal of materials, etc.;

(c) if so, whether the passbook scheme for exporters introduced by the Government sometime back have created some hurdles; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Government have received representations about some instances of delay in logging of DEEC Books in the Custom Houses, in the absence of which the concerned exporters cannot seek